

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
February 25, 2013 EPC Regular Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Josh Sawislak (Chair)	✓	Sam Gaugush	✓	Kurt Moser
✓	Chinling Chen	✓	Scott Barstow	X	Geoffrey Goode
✓	Steve Walz	✓	Ryan Sloan	✓	Rebecca Jablon
✓	Ryan Wojtanowski	X	Monica Starnes	✓	Jim Kapsis

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent]

City Staff

Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

Begin 7:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Scott called the meeting to order and welcomed Kathryn Papp, local citizens.

Public Comments

- The AlexRenew 2012 Annual Report was given out to EPC members.
- Kathryn stated she would like the EPC to take more of an educational role to the City and to City Council, in particular on the importance of incorporating potential sea level rise in the Waterfront Plan.
 - o Scott responded that the EPC is very concerned with potential sea level rise, but the Waterfront Plan only looks out to 20 years in the future, whereas potential sea level rise often needs to consider 50 to 100 years. As a result, the Waterfront Plan as it currently stands might not be the best avenue; however the EPC will continue to look for ways to raise the issue with the City and the public.

DASH Comprehensive Operational Analysis, Bruce Behncke, Transportation Management & Design

- Bruce explained that the last major study was conducted approximately five years ago. The purpose of the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) is to collect new data, determine ways to improve ridership, engage the community, and develop short- and long-range plans.
 - o The COA will also look at the context of the system – how it compares to regional transit.
- Ridership has grown nearly four-fold since DASH started in 1985.
- Bruce asked about EPC members' experiences with DASH, and how they see the role of DASH within the community.
 - o Among the ideas/points raised:
 - More transit shelters;
 - Have the system extend beyond city limits, become more integrated with other systems;
 - Incorporate technology i.e. apps, websites, etc.;
 - The COA should look into origin-destination trips and the impact on the transit-dependent population;
 - Station circulators; and
 - Should support new development.
 - o Bruce noted that the COA will not analyze the DASH fleet, but rather will focus on the system itself.

- Data collection will occur through Spring 2013; analysis will occur through Summer 2013; and the Plan will be developed in Fall 2013.

Staff and Commission Member Updates

- Earth Day and Ellen Pickering Award Update
 - o Earth Day festivities will be held April 20, 2013 from 10 am to 2 pm.
 - o Earth Day Planning meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month; all are welcome, the next meeting will be March 7th at 7 pm at Lee Center.
 - o The theme will be Water, Every Drop Counts.
 - o About 20 exhibitors have signed up so far, but more are needed.
 - o EPC members should please plan to attend from set-up to close-down: 8 am to 3 pm.
 - o The Ellen Pickering Award ad for nominations went out; EPC members were asked to spread the word.
- EPC Representative in the Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - o No meeting was held in February; the next meeting will be held March 13th at 7 pm.
 - o Josh asked that anyone interested in filling the EPC rep role to please contact him, in the meantime Scott and Steve will switch off on the meetings, with Steve being the point person.
- The Potomac River Generating System (PRGS) Monitoring Group did not meet in February, the next meeting will be held March 5th.
- Waterfront Commission
 - o Ryan W. gave an update on the latest Waterfront Commission meeting:
 - Residents should be reminded to clean up after their pets.
 - Alternatives to the proposal to raise the grade of The Strand are being examined.
 - A new section of the pervious bicycle path put in in Founders Park – drainage problems on this section are being addressed.
 - The Oronoco Outfall Remediation Project is going well.
 - Bill will get back to the EPC on specifics of the possible approaches to the disposal of the dredge spoil.
 - The City is planning to issue a request for proposals for the redevelopment of the Beachcomber, a building at the foot of Prince Street. The building has historical significance as a restaurant, but was purchased by the City with open space funds.
 - Bill will look into getting more information.
 - Robinson Terminals are to be sold, and a variety of potential uses are being considered.
- A joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Commission was proposed for Thursday, March 21st.
- Danielle Fidler, former EPC chair, and former long-standing EPC member, has put her name in for the Planning Commission. The EPC voted to have Josh write a letter of support for her candidacy.
- The minutes from the January 28th EPC Regular Meeting were approved.

Adjourn 9:30 PM